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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/586,824	06/05/2000	David Godfrey Williams	17564-136	8718

7590 12/28/2001

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EXAMINER

YAN, REN LUO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2854

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/586,824

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, DAVID GODFREY

Examiner

Ren L Yan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2001 and 11 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 11, 14 and 19-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 11, 14 and 19-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

The terminal disclaimer filed on 7-9-2001 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,903 has been reviewed and is NOT accepted.

The person who signed the terminal disclaimer is not recognized as an officer of the assignee, and he/she has not been established as being authorized to act on behalf of the assignee. See MPEP § 324.

An attorney or agent, not of record, is not authorized to sign a terminal disclaimer in the capacity as an attorney or agent acting in a representative capacity as provided by 37 CFR 1.34(a). See 37 CFR 1.321(b) and/or (c).

Accordingly, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection set forth in the previous Office action is incorporated here in its entirety with the exception to canceled claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15-18.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 11, 14 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bubley(4,442,772) in view of GB 2,264,460 and Erdmann(5,044,306). The patent to Bubley teaches a screen tensioning apparatus including a screen support frame 17, a displaceable mounting bar 30 disposed adjacent each of the screen support frame side members 18 for

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tensioning a screen 26 mounted thereon, a spring member 69 for biasing the mounting bars 30 toward each other, and an inflatable air bar 32 selectively actuated to displace the mounting bars 30 against the action of the spring members 69 so as to tension the screen 26. See the entire Bubley patent for details. It is noted that the present claims call for first bias (spring biasing means) to move the mounting bars away from each other and displacing means for displacing the mounting bars against the action of the first bias (spring biasing means), which is the opposite to what has been taught by Bubley. However, since the difference in the mounting bar displacing structures between the present invention and that of Bubley amounts to a mere shift of parts location while the operation of the screen tensioning device is not otherwise modified, it appears that such a shift in parts location would have been an obvious design preference by those having ordinary skill in the art when presented with the clear teaching of Bubley. The screen 26 is clamped to the mounting bars 30 in the Bubley patent rather than the projection and aperture engagement as recited. GB 2,264,460 teaches in a screen tensioning device the conventionality of providing a plurality of projections on displaceable mounting bars that engage with corresponding apertures on the screen so as to ensure reliable connections between the two during the tensioning operation. It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the screen clamping structure of Bubley with projections on the mounting bars and apertures on the screen as taught by GB 2,264,460 in order to ensure reliable engagement between the mounting bars and the screen being tensioned. In the event that applicant argues that the combination of Bubley and GB 2,264,460 does not specifically teach that a metal stencil used for printing solder paste needs to be supported and stretched along all four peripheral edges, the Erdmann patent is introduced herein to show that it is conventional to mount and stretch a

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rectangular metal stencil S along its four peripheral edges. See Fig. 1 in Erdmann for example. In view of the teaching of Erdmann, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the stencil of Bublely, as modified by GB 2,264,460 with apertures on all four peripheral edges in order to ensure even tension on the stencil during printing.

Claims 24-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 2262460 in view of Erdmann. GB 2,264,460 teaches in a stencil tensioning device the conventionality of providing a plurality of apertures on the edges of a stencil the same way as claimed so as to be engaged with corresponding projections on tensioning bars during the tensioning operation. However, the GB patent only provides such apertures on two opposing peripheral edges of the stencil. Erdmann patent is introduced herein to show that it is conventional to mount and stretch a rectangular metal stencil S along its four peripheral edges. See Fig. 1 in Erdmann for example. In view of the teaching of Erdmann, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art to provide the stencil of Bublely, as modified by GB 2,264,460 with apertures on all four peripheral edges in order to ensure even tension on the stencil during printing.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L Yan whose telephone number is 703-308-0978. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hilten can be reached on 703-308-0719. The fax phone numbers for the

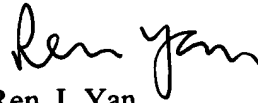
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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-5841 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Ren L Yan
Primary Examiner
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Ren Yan
December 24, 2001